Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for providing a framework for document objects located on a network, the method comprising:

creating one or more link directories for storing link relationships between document objects located on the network, wherein the one or more link relationships are separate from the document objects;

enabling the creation of a link relationship between a first document object located on the network and a second document object located on the network;

allowing the assignment of attributes describing the link relationship; and

using a unique identifier to retrieve ~~retrieving~~ the link relationships, wherein ~~using a~~ unique identifiers indicate locations of ~~that locates a~~ document objects on the network..

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

storing the link relationships with the attributes in the one or more link directories.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method for providing a framework for document objects located on a network, the method comprising:

creating one or more link directories for storing link relationships between document objects located on the network;

enabling the creation of a link relationship between a first document object located on the network and a second document object located on the network;

allowing the assignment of attributes describing the link relationship;

using a unique identifier to retrieve the link relationships, wherein unique identifiers indicate locations of document objects on the network; and ~~The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of~~

managing, wherein the managing step comprises:

creating one or more user profiles, wherein the one or more user profiles specify one or more link directories and one or more attributes relevant to a user's interests;

applying the one or more user profiles as filters against the one or more retrieved link relationships to determine which link relationships to present to a user; and

presenting the retrieved and filtered link relationships to the user while the user is accessing a document object.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises permitting users of the network to access the one or more link directories.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the presenting step comprises ordering the link relationships presented to the user by link directories and by discrete attributes describing the link relationships.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the allowing step further comprises assigning one or more attributes to one of the document objects.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the enabling step comprises:

assigning one or more attributes to the first document object;

assigning one or more attributes to the second document object; and

creating a link relationship described by a relationship between the assigned attribute for the first document object and the assigned attribute for the second document object.

Claims 8-13: (canceled).

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the managing step further comprises permitting the user to identify link directories containing link relationships to the document object the user is accessing.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising permitting the identification of link relationships assigned a particular attribute.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein one of the attributes identifies a creator of the link relationship.

Claim 17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein one of the attributes identifies an entity responsible for a document object.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of claim 18, further comprising presenting to a user link references to document objects associated with the responsible entity.

Claims 20-21: (canceled).

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein the managing step further comprises presenting a user of the network accessing a link relationship with an identity of a creator of the link relationship.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the step of presenting the retrieved and filtered link relationships is restricted to authorized users.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The method of claim 35, wherein the allowing step further comprises defining valid data types associated with the attribute values.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The method of claim 24, further comprising validating attribute values, the validating comprising matching the valid data types to the attribute values.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of claim 3, wherein the managing step further comprises permitting users to specify a value or range of values for a selected attribute used to filter the retrieved link relationships.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the link relationship created in the enabling step comprises a link reference including a network address containing a bookmark.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A computer readable medium upon which is embedded instructions for carrying out a method for providing a framework for document objects located on a network, the method comprising:

maintaining one or more link directories for storing link relationships between document objects located on the network, wherein the one or more link directories are separate from the document objects;

creating a link relationship between a first document object located on the network and a second document object located on the network;

allowing users to assign attributes describing ~~a~~ the link relationship and the document objects related by the link relationship; and

using a unique identifier to retrieve ~~retrieving~~ the link relationships, wherein ~~using a~~ unique identifiers indicate locations of ~~that locates a~~ document objects on the network.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A computer readable medium upon which is embedded instructions for carrying out a method for providing a framework for document objects located on a network, the method comprising:

maintaining one or more link directories for storing link relationships between document objects located on the network;

creating a link relationship between a first document object located on the network and a second document object located on the network;

allowing users to assign attributes describing ~~a~~ the link relationship and the document objects related by the link relationship, ~~The computer readable medium of claim 28,~~ wherein the allowing step comprises:

defining one or more link relationship attributes describing the link relationships stored in the one or more link directories; and

assigning one or more link relationship attributes to each link relationship, wherein the one or more assigned link relationship attributes describe the link relationship as determined by the user assigning the link relationship attributes; and

storing the link relationships with the attributes in the one or more link directories located on the network; and

using a unique identifier to retrieve the link relationships, wherein unique identifiers indicate locations of document objects on the network.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the managing step comprises:

creating one or more user profiles, wherein the one or more user profiles specify one or more link directories and one or more attributes relevant to the user's interests;

applying the one or more user profiles as filters against the one or more retrieved link relationships to determine which link relationships to present; and

presenting the retrieved and filtered link relationships while a document object is accessed.

Claim 31 (original): The computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein the presenting step comprises ordering the link relationships presented by link directories and by discrete attributes describing the link relationships.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 28, further comprising: a list of attributes.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising creating a list of attributes.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The method of claim 33 wherein the allowing step comprises assigning attributes from the list of attributes.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The method of claim 33 further comprising creating a list of attribute values that correspond to an attribute in the list of attributes.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method of claim 35 wherein the allowing step further comprises assigning attribute values from the list of attribute values.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of claim 36 wherein the assignment of an attribute value automatically inherits the benefit of the context of the associated attribute.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The method of claim 33 further comprising declaring that a first attribute is subordinate to a second attribute.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The method of claim 38 wherein the assignment of the second attribute automatically inherits the benefit of the context of being subordinate to the second attribute.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The method of claim 33 comprising declaring that the first attribute is dependent of a plurality of other attributes.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The method of claim 40 wherein the assignment of the first attribute automatically inherits the benefit of the context of the assigned plurality of other attributes

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method of claim 35 further comprising declaring an attribute from the list of attributes is subordinate to an attribute value from the list of attribute values.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The method of claim 33 further comprising:

identifying a first attribute;

identifying a second attribute;

creating a pair attribute that further describes a link relationship described by the first attribute and the second attribute.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The method of claim 43 further comprising declaring pair attribute values further describing the one or more pair attributes.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The method of claim 43 wherein the allowing step further comprises assigning the pair attribute to the link relationship described by the first attribute and the second attribute.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The method of claim 45 comprising assigning a pair attribute value to the link relationship described by the first attribute and the second attribute.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The method of claim 33 further comprising declaring that one or more attributes from the list of attributes is required to be assigned.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The method of claim 33 further comprising declaring that a first attribute from the list of attributes must be assigned when a second attribute from the list of attributes is assigned.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The method of claim 6, further comprising permitting the identification of document objects assigned a particular attribute.

Claim 50 (new): A method for providing a framework for document objects located on a network, the method comprising:

creating one or more link directories for storing link relationships between document objects located on the network, wherein the one or more link relationships are separate from the document objects;

enabling the creation of a link relationship between a first document object located on the network and a second document object located on the network; and

allowing the assignment of attributes describing the link relationship; and

storing the link relationships with the attributes in the one or more link directories located on the network.